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MAT-8106US PATENT

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

H. Ota

: Art Unit:

Serial No.:

To Be Assigned

: Examiner:

Filed: FOR:

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APPARATUS AND METHOD

**THEREOF** 



## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98 and to the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the Examiner in charge of the above-identified application is requested to consider and make of record the references listed on the PTO 1449 (R&P) submitted herewith. A copy of each of the listed references is also enclosed.

Although the information submitted herewith may be "material" to the Examiner's consideration of the subject application, this submission is not intended to constitute an admission that such information is "prior art" as to the claimed invention.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made.

References JP 7-249998 and JP 8-293164 are not in the English language, but an English abstract is attached to each copy of the reference submitted herewith.

This information disclosure statement is being filed with the filing of the above-referenced application. No Fee or certification is required. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b).

Respectfully submitted

Lawrence E. Ashery, Reg. No. 34,515

Attorney for Applicant

Encls.: PTO Form 1449,

Copy of (2) References

Dated: March 12, 2001

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The Assistant Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. 18-0350 of any fees associated with this communication.

EXPRESS MAIL Mailing Label Number: EL 769591195 US Date of Deposit: March 12, 2001

I hereby certify that this paper and fee are being deposited, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 and with sufficient postage, using the "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service of the United States Postal Service on the date indicated above and that the deposit is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Kathleen Libby